

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting – January 8, 2002**

Present: Commissioners –
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service –
Kathy Baker, Administrative Assistant
Tom Baker, Park Ranger
Steve DeLong, Landscape Architect
Frank Fiala, Superintendent
Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services
Brian Hoduski, Curator
Geri Larsen, Maintenance
Rodney Larsen, Administrative Officer
Martha Lyon, Management Assistant
Charlie Matsen, Facility Manager
Leslie Newkirk, Museum Curator Intake Trainee

Jill Burkland, Isle Royale Natural History Association
Diana Charles, office of Sen. Carl Levin
Sherie Davie, office of Sen. Debbie Stabenow
Phyllis Green, Isle Royale National Park Superintendent
Lisa McKenzie, City of Hancock
Bill Schenk, Midwest Regional Director
Amy Wisti, office of Congressman Bart Stupak
Ed Yarbrough, Quincy Mine Hoist Association

Absent: Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Park Service

Recording Secretary: Abby Sue Fisher

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, January 8 in Calumet, Michigan at the Park headquarters.

Paul Lehto advised the Committee that Kathryn Eckert would be absent due to jury duty.

Introductions

Frank Fiala introduced Bill Schenk from the Omaha office, Phyllis Green, new superintendent at Isle Royale and congressional representatives Sherry Davies from Sen. Stabenow's office, Diana Charles from Sen. Carl Levin's office, and Amy Wisti from Congressman Stupak's office. Lisa McKenzie, councilor from Hancock, was welcomed.

Agenda

There were no changes; the agenda was approved.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the Advisory Commission meeting held October 23, 2001 were distributed and approved without changes. Frank apologized for the Park Service computer system, which was down for a number of weeks.

Old Business

Regarding the search for an executive director, Paul Lehto reported that two candidates were interviewed, one was offered the position but subsequently declined the offer. Nothing has been done since that point, but next month the process will be revived.

Superintendent's Report

Frank suggested that when next year's meeting is scheduled, it should be towards the end of January or early February to give more time after the holidays. He advised that little has happened since the last meeting in October and the holidays are traditionally a slow period.

► New Staff: Jo Urion, the new oral historian, will arrive January 9. This is a term position responsible for developing and organizing the oral history program under the direction of Abby Sue Fisher. Frank illustrated the importance of the oral history project by relaying the story of Ed Leiblein, whose grandfather was one of the original storekeepers in the area. Mr. Leiblein was interested in the development of the Park and had agreed to be interviewed. However, Mr. Leiblein unexpectedly passed away on January 3 and Frank lamented the lost opportunity to document his family history. As a result, the oral history program will receive continued emphasis and Frank expects Jo to begin interviewing key individuals in the near future. In other positions, the Chief of Interpretation position is in the regional office for classification; Frank is awaiting more news on that.

► Acquisitions: Two major acquisitions have been completed. KEWE closed on the former Calumet & Hecla Library on December 21 and now owns the building. This was the Number 1 priority for the acquisition program. The week before, the National Park Service closed on 104 acres on Quincy Hill completing that acquisition. Except for Warehouse #1 (Rowe Moving), all of the acquisitions originally targeted in January 1998 have been completed.

► Activities:

1) The Pay Office on Quincy Hill has a new boiler. This has made a remarkable difference in the heat on the second floor, where rewiring, plastering and plumbing is in process to accommodate the Isle Royale NP staff offices.

2) Preliminary work has been started in the Library, with the goal being to eventually relocate Abby Sue's division.

3) As of January 1, Larry Lankton is now officially working on the Park's Historic Resources Study. This is expected to be an 18-month project.

4) Fritz Rushlow, Steve DeLong, John Rosemurgy and other park staff have put together a Value Analysis workshop to be conducted the week of January 15 regarding the rehabilitation of the Union Building. Frank thanked them for doing a substantial amount of work in a very short time. Frank distributed the Value Analysis handbook and asked for questions.

5) The Omaha office has all the materials on the contract for the Administration Building and Frank expects to hear something in the near future.

6) Frank will attend the Village of Calumet's meeting tonight on the Historic District Ordinance they are proposing. He indicated his support of the Village's stance.

Questions asked of the Superintendent:

Paul Lehto asked about the contract for the Administration Building. Frank indicated that had not been released yet.

Bob Langseth asked to look at the Union Building this week, and Frank will oblige. Bob inquired about the Rowe Building. Frank reported that another appraiser had been hired to review the Park's appraisal, to happen sometime in January. The outlook is positive for the Park.

Frank reported on the At-Large nominees for the Advisory Commission. Each year, 2-3 people should rotate off the Commission. In 2002, that is Larry Lankton's position and the Village of Calumet position. The new candidate to represent the public's interest should be someone who has a background in historic preservation or is familiar with the operation of the NPS. Both Larry and Kathryn Eckert share the At-Large seats. The Village of Calumet is a designated position, and there are now nominees for that position. All names will be submitted to the regional office and then will progress to the Washington office for action by the Secretary of the Interior. Until Larry and Sue's appointments are made, they are allowed to continue on. Approximately 14 applications were received for the At-Large seat.

Reports from the Commissioners

Bob reported that he had asked Kathryn for information on the preservation and cleaning of sandstone. She sent three sheets of material, which Bob will share with Steve DeLong, John Rosemurgy and any other interested parties. Bob is also working on a project that would

demonstrate the impact of the St. Anne's project on the community. Bob also asked Larry about whether drilling under Red Jacket Road would be part of the Historic Study. Larry replied that it would not.

Sue reported there would be a Village Council public hearing at 7:00 p.m. tonight to review the proposed Historic District Ordinance. Depending on the public input, that would probably be on the Council's agenda for the following Tuesday. The Downtown Development Authority has been working on updating the downtown plan. The first plan was done in 1979. This Thursday (1/10) would have been an open house at the Michigan House restaurant to review the editions and receive public comment. However, the DDA representative had a health problem and Sue believes that meeting will be postponed as a result. The Village is still working on one paving project for next summer (Sixth Street) and working with the Dept. of Transportation on the design phase of the brick for Pine Street. Sue reported that Tony Bausano is selling copper deposit maps from the 1840's; she has asked him to put one aside for review by the Commission or the park to see if they are original. Larry indicated that most of the maps Tony sells are plates cut out of early publications. Jill Burkland reported Isle Royale has two of those and they sell for about \$250 each. Bob asked if they were originals, in the sense that if a person bought the map, would the information be lost forever to the general public. Jill indicated that they were in limited supply; Larry reported that the information would not be lost because libraries and archives would have the original documents that the maps originally came from. He indicated one of the maps might be useful for exhibit purposes or for presentation purposes to major donors. A tentative motion was made to have Larry and Sue be authorized to look at the maps, make a decision on them and if desirable, spend up to \$500 for purchase. Motion was approved.

Sue asked Larry about the poor rock piles. Larry replied that graduate student Elizabeth Norris did an independent study on the poor rock piles. This was not a comprehensive survey but rather provides some general information about how poor rock gets generated and the technology to produce more rock over time. Elizabeth is expected to give a paper on this at a major archaeology conference at the end of the week in Mobile, Alabama. Bob said Steve Weeland from the Rock and Mineral Club is interested in assisting with a project like that and Larry said Steve should talk with Elizabeth. Frank reported that Steve DeLong is working on aerial photographs in connection with MTU and is approaching that from a GIS project. Perhaps the rock piles that are within the Park boundary or associated with NHA properties could be included in those studies.

Tom Nemacheck reported that he met with the House budget director in Lansing and is not too optimistic about the state's projected economy for the next three or four years. Gov. Engler has enacted 5-10% budget cuts in order to balance the state budget. Travel Michigan had a \$700,000 cut in their budget, which will affect promotion and tourism. On the positive side, 25% of the budget is still earmarked for cultural tourism. KEWE should still be well represented by the state's efforts as they cannot ignore a national park dedicated to state history.

Clyde Raasio indicated that the water project was completed in the fall. Another cross connection was completed to serve the area near the hospital and all of Quincy Hill as a backup in case main service was interrupted. He inquired about whether the poor rock piles behind #6 on Quincy Hill were under private ownership. Ed Yarbrough replied the Hoist had purchased them

about 18 months ago. Clyde then reported that the only ones in private ownership were the ones behind Quincy Auto, and those were rapidly disappearing. Ed reported that the Hoist is in the process of purchasing the property around #8 within the next six months, acquiring the remaining rock there and working on preserving it. Clyde advised this was important not only from a historic standpoint but also one of safety. In other issues, he advised that there were water problems at the intersection of US41 and Frenchtown Road. They are doing some digging there to divert that water to the upper side of the ditch. The Commission had approached the City of Hancock at one time to purchase the six acres behind the Pay Office; Clyde wanted to know if any of the City properties which fall within the Park boundaries had been designated as an R1 residential area, as there is a tentative subdivision plan which would encompass all of the six acres the Park was interested in, plus other property. There was no answer offered to this question.

Larry wanted it on the record that he is resigning from the Commission not out of any dissatisfaction or disinterest, but simply to focus on writing and other projects including the Historic Resource Study. He also believes it is important to rotate in order to get new blood into the Commission. There are many people in the local community who have knowledge of historic preservation and the Park Service and how it operates and Larry is confident in the Commission's ability to find a suitable candidate. As far the Historic Resource Study, Larry wants to focus on the period from 1890-1920 because that is the period that produced most of the material culture we still see in terms of buildings remaining. The other focus will be the "shut-down" era, what the cost was and why these mines are no longer mines but now historic sites.

Paul thanked the many people in the room involved in the purchase of 6,000+ acres in the Keweenaw for being part of a generation leaving something for the next. In bad news, a windstorm tore three roofs off three historic structures, only one of which has enough insurance to cover the damage. Paul also made a request to Frank and also Erik Nordberg from the MTU Archives to purchase and permanently display some historic photos. The Township has arranged to purchase an additional 140 acres of ski trails at Swedetown, which brings it to a total of about 1,400 acres in public ownership at that site.

Public Questions and Comments

Bill Schenk complimented Paul on being recognized for the President's Award and extended his appreciation. The NPS has a new director, Fran Mainella, who has much experience with state parks. There is also a new Secretary of the Interior, Gail Norton. Bill stressed we need to have continued and/or increasing involvement with partners and commissions and other players as "cooperation, collaboration and communication leads to conservation." KNHP and Isle Royale are exemplary in showing that cooperation with the community. Budgetwise, the NPS has fared well lately, but 2003 and 2004 will be leaner. It will be harder to obtain funding for land acquisition and major projects. However, Bill has been involved with Keweenaw since its inception and thanks all the staff and Commission in their actions to make the park the success it is today.

Bob asked if the Commission should send Director Mainella a congratulatory card on her wedding with a corresponding invitation to visit the area. Bill thought that would be appropriate and Paul will follow up with that.

Diana Charles from Senator Levin's office reported it was nice to see the progress made through federal funding. She confirmed Bill's report that budgets will get tighter but requests should still be made. The Park needs to focus on prioritizing early and plan on their justifications for requests.

Sherie Davie from Senator Stabenow's office asked that the Commission stay in touch with her office in Marquette. Their office is pleased to be involved with the Park and its progress. She distributed her business card to the Commission.

Paul reported that Congressman Stupak was in the area in November for a veteran's day program and appreciated his attendance at that event. Amy Wisti said it has been great to see the progress of the Park from when the Congressman was first elected shortly after the Park was established. She is pleased to hear about the completion of the land acquisitions and reiterated her contact information if anyone wanted to get in touch with her or the Congressman.

Phyllis Green, new superintendent of the Isle Royale National Park, said it was nice to be back in the Copper Country. She has watched the KNHP's progress from different parts of the country and commended the Board on their outstanding work. She is looking forward to helping implement the Park's objectives.

Ed Yarbrough reported that the Hoist Association has just republished Boom Copper, the 13th edition. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Hoist partnered with the IRNHA to open the gift shop, but sales were flat. Ed attributes that to building a history of being open during the holidays and perhaps a lack of advertising. Sales and visitation is up, about 30% over 2000, there are a lot of major preservation projects that are taking time and resources: continuing to work on a cataloging project, rebuilding the railroad, a miners' memorial and exhibiting the copper boulder. Ed thanked Frank and the KNHP for supporting many of the Hoist's projects.

Lisa McKenzie from the City of Hancock wants to attend the meeting to promote collaboration between the City and the Park. She indicated she could use Paul's expertise with some of the issues the City has with Maasto Hiito. The City's budget is also under strain and some of the development that was previously scheduled has been put on hold.

Paul solicited further comments from the general public. Jim Boyce indicated it was always a pleasure to attend Commission meetings because he learns so much and it is always very positive. Jill Burkland (IRNHA) said that although the collaboration with the Hoist over Christmas wasn't the success they had hoped, they are still eager to work together in the future. The IRNHA is happy to help in the funding for the Ingot. Jill will be meeting with Abby Sue and Brian Hoduski tomorrow to talk about a sales area in the Park archives in the Library building. As a resident of the Paymaster Building, she is grateful for the heat, hot water, and extended electrical outlets in her office. Carol Kurz apologized for coming late and asked about remodeling in the downtown area as some of the facades are not in synch with what the Park's

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objectives. Sue reiterated her earlier report about the DDA's 1979 study. The DDA has had a grant program in place to hire an architect to help storeowners design store fronts. Sue invited Carol to the public hearing.

Frank introduced Tom Baker and Rodney Larsen who are co-chairing the ten-year anniversary committee. It is hoped the Administration Building will be completed and dedicated in time. As the time nears, frequent meetings will occur with advertising in the newspaper to solicit community involvement and support.

Bob Langseth advised that the Commission itself is experiencing some money woes. He would like to take a fresh look at developing a base of resource money for future projects.

Meeting adjourned. There was a fifteen-minute break before the meeting of the executive session.

Next meeting: April 9.